CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising arranging content for viewing based upon a user specified duration.

2. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein arranging further comprises selecting content based upon content preferences and providing selected content for no more than the user specified duration.

3. The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein providing is selected from the group consisting of presenting the arranged content to the user and storing the arranged content.

4. The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the content preferences are selected from the group consisting of preferences set by an editorial staff and preferences set by the user.

5. The method as set forth in claim 4, wherein the content further comprises data enabling selection of content based upon content and preferences.

6. The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the content preferences selected from the group consisting of explicitly developed user preferences and implicitly developed preferences based upon at least one user's usage.

7. A method comprising:

specifying a time budget for recording a program; and

arranging content based upon priorities to fit within the time budget.

8. The method as set forth in claim 7, further comprising storing arranged content.

9. The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein priorities are selected from the group consisting of user preferences and priorities of content providers.

10. A method comprising:

receiving content and associated data indicating content segment locations, descriptions and duration; and

arranging selected content in accordance with a time budget, the content selected determined using content segment location, descriptions and duration.

11. The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein receiving comprises receiving multiple versions of content of varying lengths, the arranging selecting a version of content within the time budget.

12. The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein the descriptions comprise descriptions of the content and the content segment locations comprises segment locations of corresponding descriptions.

13. The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein arranging further comprises reorganizing according the time budget and priorities provided in segment descriptions.

14.   An apparatus configured to arrange viewing content based upon a user specified time duration.

15.   The apparatus as set forth in claim 14, wherein time duration of at least a portion of the content is indicated by data associated with the content, said apparatus further configured to identify time durations of segments of content and arrange the content using identified time durations of segments.

16.   The apparatus as set forth in claim 15, further configured to refine arrangement of content according to preferences.

17.   The apparatus as set forth in claim 15, wherein the data comprises metadata.

18.   The apparatus as set forth in claim 17, further configured to analyze user preferences, priorities, and time duration of segments and arrange content based upon user preferences, priorities and time duration.

19.   The apparatus as set forth in claim 14, wherein the apparatus is located at one of a service provider, local to the storage device to store arranged data, remote from the storage device to store arranged data, local to the viewing device to view arranged content.